

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for stabilizing dystrophin-associated protein complexes (DAPCs) on the surface of a cell, comprising contacting the cell with an effective amount of ~~biglycan~~ a polypeptide, such that the DAPCs are stabilized, wherein said ~~biglycan~~ polypeptide comprises a sequence at least ~~80%~~ 95% identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9, or a portion thereof and possesses DAPC-stabilizing activity wherein the polypeptide binds to alpha-dystroglycan, and wherein the polypeptide comprises glycosaminoglycan (GAG) side chains.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the ~~biglycan~~ polypeptide binds to alpha-sarcoglycan and gamma-sarcoglycan.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the ~~biglycan~~ polypeptide stimulates phosphorylation of alpha-sarcoglycan on a cell membrane.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~portion of biglycan~~ polypeptide comprises at least one repeat motif of 24 amino acids in the Leucine Rich Repeat (LRR) of SEQ ID NO: 9.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the ~~biglycan~~ polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that is ~~at least about 95%~~ identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~biglycan~~ polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions of 6.0 x sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45 °C to SEQ ID NO: 8.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is a muscle cell.

15-52. (Withdrawn)

53. (New) A method for stabilizing dystrophin-associated protein complexes (DAPCs) on the surface of a muscle cell, comprising contacting the cell with an effective amount of polypeptide, such that the DAPCs are stabilized, wherein said polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of: (a) a polypeptide comprising a sequence at least 95% identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9 and capable of binding to alpha-sarcoglycan and gamma-sarcoglycan; and (b) a polypeptide comprising a sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 9.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide binds to alpha-dystroglycan.

55. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide binds to alpha-sarcoglycan and gamma-sarcoglycan.

56. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide stimulates phosphorylation of alpha-sarcoglycan on a cell membrane.

57. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least one repeat motif of 24 amino acids in the Leucine Rich Repeat (LRR) of SEQ ID NO: 9.

58. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide comprises glycosaminoglycan (GAG) side chains.

59. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

60. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions of 6.0 x sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45 °C to SEQ ID NO: 8.
